The trends in smuggling and seizures made in the entire West Coast region| Sahar airport are kept under constant review for taking appropriate remedial action in close co-ordination with the concerned Central and State Government agencies.

(c) The total value of contraband goods seized, including goods seized during raids|searches conducted by the Customs authorities at Bombay during the years 1984, 1985 and 1986 (upto June) is given below:-

Year	Value of goods seized (Rs. in crores)
1984	36·31
1985	71·21
1986 (upto June)	41·03 (Provisional)

World Bank loan for Telecommunication Sector

†1262. SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the proposed World Bank loan worth $ 300 million for the telecommunication sector has not materialised so far;

(b) whether it is also a fact that India wanted the inclusion of indigenous manufactures in the list of supplies for expansion projects;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the World Bank is insisting for the enhancement of the Seventh Plan allocations for the sector to Rs. 6,000 crores against the approved funds of Rs. 4,000 crores; and

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard and what are the reasons for the delay in sanctioning the proposed loan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (d) We have posed the 9th Telecommunication Project to the World Bank. Details are under discussion with the World Bank.

Proposal to set up a board for revival of sick industries

†1263. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up or propose to set up a board for industrial and financial reconstruction for the revival of sick and potentially sick industries;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) what was the total number of sick industrial units in the country (both medium and small) at the end of December, 1984 and 1985; and

(d) what programme has been chalked out by the board for the year 1986-87?

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) The Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 provides for setting up of a Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) with a view to securing the timely detection of sick and potentially sick industrial units and speedy determination of the preventive, ameliorative, remedial and other measures which need to be taken with respect to such units and the expeditious enforcement of the measure so determined. BIFR is likely to be set up shortly by the Government

(c) As per the information furnished by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the number of medium and small scale sick industrial units in the portfolio of scheduled

†Previously Unstarred Question 710, transferred from the 28th July, 1986.

†Previously Unstarred Question 725, transferred from the 28 July, 1986.

commercial banks as at the end of December 1984 and June 1985 (latest available) was 92,737 and 99,071 respecuively.

(d) Does not arise at this stage.

Merger of Regional Rural Banks with the Sponsoring Banks

1264. SHRI SHANTIMOY GHOSH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to merge the regional rural banks with the sponsoring banks; and

(b) if so what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Government are of the view that Regional Rural Banks should continue to function as separate entities.

Duty on processed fruits and vegetables

1265. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the reasons for not reducing the excise duty on processed fruits and vegetables and cover it under MODVAT?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): A majority of those processed fruits and vegetables, which are put up in unit containers and ordinarily intended for sale, are leviable to excise duty at 10 per cent *ad valorem*, which is a low rate of duty.

To begin with, MODVAT was extended to goods covered by 37 Chapters in the Central Excise tariff. In the light of the experience regarding the working of MODVAT and other relevant considerations, the question of extension of MODVAT to other commodities including processed fruits and vegetables would be considered.

Import-Export Policy

1266. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the Import-Export policy wherein it has been stated that all exporters will be provided a Pass Book for imports against exports and all the imports and exports will be entered in the Pass Book to avoid delays and harassment in getting licence under Duty Exempted Scheme and state:

(a) the reasons for which this scheme has not been implemented so far; and

(b) what steps Government are taking to promote exports and avoid delays in getting advance replenishment licences?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) The implementation of the scheme has started recently. Some Pass Books have already been issued.

(b) A number of steps have been taken to promote exports like diversifying and strengthening our productive base, modernisation and technological upgradation of our productive apparatus, modification of industrial policies, provision of fiscal incentives for exports, expansion of Export Processing Zones etc. For expediting consideration of applications of Advance Licences, Regional Advance Licensing Committees consisting of members of all Technical Authorities have been set-up at New Delhi, Calcutta, Madras and Bombay. These Committees have been given enough power to decide most of the cases of Advance Licenses. A time schedule has been prescribed for disposal of applications of advance licences and licensing authorities have been instructed to adhere to this time schedule.

Encouragement for Export of Processed Food

1267. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the Duty Exemption Scheme under which it has been provided that if any exporter imports goods, he has to export within nine months of the date of import and state:

(a) what are the reasons for which this period of nine months cannot be extended to fifteen months to encourage the export of processed food (which is now in the